



Open Mind

The Bulletin of the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

February 2012

Welcoming our Chapel's
37th Minister –
Saturday 7 January 2012



“It is with joy and a deep sense of responsibility that I take up the ministry to which you have called me... Above all I will cherish and cultivate the ways of love, freedom, reason and tolerance among you and with all people of good will,” responded Rev Dr Patrick O’Neill in the Act of Induction, during the moving and memorable Service of Induction, held at the Chapel on 7 January 2012.

See page 7 and the back page for more details and photographs from this special ceremony.

February Services

Sunday 5 February (11.00am and 7.00pm)

Guest Speaker: Gordon Jackson

"What is the meaning of this?" - is a question we often hear and ask, though the answer is not so readily gained. In today's service we will be using the work of Viktor Frankl, - 'Man's search for meaning,' to help us discover the answers.

Sunday 12 February (11.00am and 7.00pm)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

“In Search of Tolerance” - These days we are engaged in an endless cultural conversation about the challenges and problems we face in learning to adapt to a "multicultural" society. New realities are upon us, and different groups learning to get along with other groups of people who are quite different is no longer optional – it is an absolute necessity. It seems like a simple enough principle, tolerance, but oh, how difficult its actual practice and application turn out to be!

Sunday 19 February (11.00am and 7.00pm)

Guest Speaker; Service to be announced

Sunday 26 February (11.00am and 7.00pm)

-Annual General Meeting Sunday-

Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

“The Golden Rule (..and some Silver, Copper, & Tin Rules, too)” - The Golden Rule, Christianity calls it. And it has been for some 2,000 years at least, the most admired standard of behaviour in Western Civilization. It turns out that the world has some silver, copper, tin, and iron rules to contend with as well, and these rules tell us as much about human conduct - and misconduct - as the Golden Rule that most of us profess to admire so much. Come join us this morning!

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The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
The Unitarian Chapel in the heart of Hampstead



Unitarianism is spirituality without dogma and welcomes people of all religious faiths as well as those who are humanistic. Unitarians cherish and live by the values of love, compassion, a free mind, service to others, human dignity, and other similar values. It encourages each person to deepen their relationship with God, yet allows each person to understand God in their own unique way.

**The Chapel holds two services on Sundays,
at 11.00am and 7.00pm**

The morning service is more family-oriented, including activities for children led by professionally trained leaders, and a Children's Chapel is offered for children of all ages. The evening service is more intimate for those who prefer a more meditative tone.

Visitors and guests are always welcome!

The Chapel also offers a rich programme of social activities, covering a wide range of interests such as literature and poetry, Tai Chi, choir singing, monthly lectures, and a variety of monthly events for all age groups.

The Chapel is licensed for marriages and other ceremonies.

**For more information, visit our website at
www.rosslynhillchapel.com**

From the Editor

Celebration, Inspiration, Aspiration!

Celebration – In April last year, we celebrated the decision to call Rev Patrick O'Neill as our settled minister. In September we celebrated Patrick and Patricia's arrival with a 'welcome dinner'. Last but not least, on Saturday 7 January, we had a moving and memorable celebration service of induction for Patrick as our settled minister.

Inspiration - May we build on our achievements and may we be inspired together to help our beloved community at RHUC to continue to grow and flourish. On Sunday 26 February, the AGM will be held after the morning service, and I hope some of you will be inspired to serve on the Management Committee. The continuity of the Chapel depends on its members. Your vote counts, your voice counts, your presence counts.

Aspiration – May we aspire to be a healthy congregation focusing on:

- Providing a quality Sunday service experience that bonds people to one another and to the greater whole.
 - Being enriched, not imprisoned by the past, and open to possibility.
 - Caring for the "corporate soul" of the congregation as well as individuals
 - Being committed to a shared vision from which we prioritize and use our energies and resources.
 - Being committed to an effective process of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the congregation.
 - Demonstrating healthy leadership: a positive dynamic between minister and congregants, a board with a clear sense of vision and values as it cares for the congregation and the staff with a high level of trust and motivation.
 - Being committed to growth, realizing that growth brings change.
 - Being able to face and deal constructively with conflict
 - Placing a high priority on the application of faith and values to daily life.
 - Being committed to thinking globally while acting locally.
- (Compiled by Qiyamah Rahman)

Ingrid Tavkar (Editor)

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PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

First, may I take this opportunity to thank the congregation for the really wonderful and moving ceremony of Induction marking my ministry appointment here on 7 January. To all who helped make the occasion special – the Search Committee, the Choir, Ed Connolly and Georgina Drewe, Ingrid Tavkar and the reception crew, the Flower Committee, everyone – thank you. It was a day I will always cherish. Thanks also to friends and colleagues from Unitarian congregations across the area who journeyed to be with us that day.

With our congregation's Annual General Meeting coming up on Sunday 26 February, it is time for us to consider the important task of electing new members to our Management Committee. We are especially challenged this year because so many Board members, due to individual circumstances, must leave the Board at the same time. We need between five and seven new members willing to stand for election.

I needn't tell you that strong lay leadership is simply essential for us at the beginning of a new ministry chapter here. The Board members stepping down now represent an extraordinarily gifted group who have seen the Chapel through one of the most demanding interim periods of our long history. We now need people of some business acumen, vision, dedication to Unitarian values, and with a love for what this community represents in the lives of so many to come forward and help us shape the future of our chapel.

Ideally, a good board of managers has a proper balance in several ways. A good balance of men and women, older and younger, varied in life experience and life views, both long-term members and relative newcomers. We are charged to make some business decisions, some programme decisions, always bearing in mind our primary mission of maintaining a free faith tradition of Unitarian inclusivity and service for all ages. As inheritors of three centuries of presence here in Hampstead, we cherish both our proud history and our hopeful future.

If you might be interested in taking a turn on our Board of managers, please, please come talk to me directly, or talk to any of the present Board members about what it would involve and how you might fit in. If you are approached to consider standing for a new Board position, please give it careful thought. We need you now - I need help to do this important work that you have entrusted to me. My phone number is 020 7435 3506. My email is revponeill@aol.com.

See you in Chapel....
...po'n

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

Children's Chapel meets every Sunday at the 11.00am service. New children of all ages are always welcome. Infants are welcome in the creche.

Chapel Youth Group will be continuing with Lizzy Lawrence as the adult advisor. Please contact Lizzy at 020 7328 2251 for details.

Chapel Choir rehearses each Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Chapel. New voices are always welcomed into the choir. No audition necessary.

A **Tai Chi class** is held each Wednesday at 5.45pm in the Chapel.

February Activities and Meetings

9 Feb. - **Management Committee** meets at 7.00pm in the Committee Room in the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but contact either Chair, John Lawrence or Tanya Morrison, ahead of time as a courtesy.

14 Feb. - **Social Action Committee** will meet at 7.30pm

16 Feb. - **The Book Group** will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead, to discuss "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi. Contact: Bill Ellington (Tel: 020 7354 0397, email: Ellingtonbill@aol.com)

20 Feb. - If you like to read and /or write poetry, the **Chapel Poetry Group** will meet at 7.30pm in the Chapel. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Mark Your Diaries



Make a note in your diary now!
Annual General Meeting 12.30pm on
Sunday 26 February 2012

The AGM will be held after the morning service. Come along to hear reports from the Co-Chairs, the Treasurer, the Minister, and Activities' Leaders and to take part in discussion. This is an opportunity to review the year, look at the accounts, think about where we are now and what we want for our Chapel in the future.

Members will be voting for new members to carry on the important work of managing the Chapel. If you are interested in serving on the Management Committee, please speak to Rev O'Neill, John Lawrence or Tanya Morrison (co-Chairs) or any other member of the MC (see below).

The continuity of the Chapel depends on its members. Your vote counts, your voice counts, your presence counts.

Helping Hands at Services

Stewards

5 February	Stephanie Heynderick
12 February	Christopher Mason & Judy Harris
19 February	Ingrid & Mohan Tavkar
26 February	Lucinca Hallan & Judy Harris

Worship Group Reps

5 February	Julia Reid
12 February	Leighton Cole
19 February	Janna Williams
26 February	Julia Reed

Charity Book Sale

Do you have good quality second-hand books to donate for the RHUC Book Sales?

Please bring them to the Chapel as soon as you can!

The sale is on SATURDAY 17 March 2012

All proceed will be donated to charity projects.



**MARYLEBONE
PROJECT**

MARYLEBONE SHELTER FOR WOMEN – The entire Christmas Eve collection of £889.49 was donated to the Marylebone Shelter for Women.



Coffee/tea money collections for Good Causes

October – Cold Weather Shelter - £63.83

November & December – Kids Company - £181.46

Submitting copy:

Unsolicited copy is welcomed and should be emailed to: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com. All submissions may be edited for content and length (200 words) at the discretion of the Communications Team, who also reserves the right to reject unsuitable material. **Deadline** for submitting items for the March issue of 'Open Mind' is **Saturday 18 February 2012**.

Publisher's Statement: "Open Mind" is a tool of outreach for the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel. The views expressed in this publication reflect the spirit and substance of Unitarian values, as well as matters of concern to Unitarians, but are not necessarily shared by all members.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Welcoming Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapels 37th Minister, continued

The service was the culmination of a momentous journey for Rev Patrick and for us all in the congregation. Our search committee had worked tirelessly for almost two years to find “a well rounded, intellectually mature and inspiring spiritual leader with a friendly and confident disposition... who would be able to address our need for sustained pastoral care and high quality worship and to facilitate spiritual inquiry.” Not much to ask!

The exhaustive search process required the committee to assess candidates from the UK, European Union, and finally from the USA, following a rigorous system laid down by the Unitarian Universalist Association in the USA, before negotiating with the UK Border Agency to employ our chosen candidate.

An induction service is the official recognition that a minister is settled in a new congregation, reaffirming the bond between them and offering an opportunity for rededication to the values of the chapel and its liberal religious tradition. Meticulously planned by Patrick, his wife Patricia and the Search Committee, the result was a moving and inspiring occasion attended by several senior figures from the denomination and district, who wore robes and arrived and departed in a formal procession (a rare sight for Unitarians).

Harpist Tanya Houghton soothed us with several interludes of Irish traditional melodies, while Ed (Connolly) played the organ and accompanied the RHUC choir in several pieces, directed by Georgina Drewe.

Rev Sarah Tinker (Essex Church, Kensington) opened the service with the Invocation, and Rev Linda Hart (Richmond and Putney Unitarian Church) lit the chalice before Rev Danielle Wilson, Chair of the Search Committee, spoke of the meaning of this occasion. Having thanked all members of the

search committee, she referred to the “special relationship of trust, goodwill, leadership, and being in right relationship with each other”. “Today we say aloud what we expect of Patrick and what he expects of us... I am proud to have Patrick here and am proud of how our community has come together and worked together to achieve this.”

Rev Dr Ann Peart brought the greetings of the General Assembly (of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Great Britain) of which she is President.

In the sermon “The Once and Future Church”, Rev Andy Pakula echoed the teachings of the radical Unitarian theologian, Theodore Parker, urging us to favour the permanent over the transient in our faith, and to interrogate ourselves to ensure that we practise what is essential with actions that reach out to our neighbours.

The formal Act of Induction was led by Management Committee Co-Chairs, John Lawrence and Tanya Morrison, and included Chapel members joining in a statement cherishing the chapel’s history, its founders, and its congregation “for what it may yet become through our united efforts”. John and Tanya concluded: “It is with great hope and pride... we now recognise you as the Minister of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel.”

Traditionally, the congregation presents to the new minister gifts called Symbols of Ministry. Danielle presented a calendar featuring her photos of the Chapel, Alex Jurczynski (representing his mother, search committee member Jane Crispin) gave a specially commissioned stained glass panel based on a design from one of our own William Morris windows in the Arts and Crafts style and bearing Patrick’s personal benediction. Claire Julian presented a stole (a symbol of service, ministry and belonging) lovingly created by Patricia, assisted by Jane

Crispin – a collage of fabric pieces derived from Patrick’s paintings to remind him of the promises made at induction and of the need to relax and renew himself (by painting perhaps...).

An Induction Prayer was delivered by Rev Feargus O’Connor (Golders Green Unitarians), then Rev Dr David Usher (District Minister, London District Provincial Assembly) undertook the Charge to the Congregation. “The story of the congregation is not only about the person in the pulpit, it is much more about the people in the pew.” He went on to summarise pithily what being a good member of the congregation entails: “Show Up, Grow Up and Throw Up” - To paraphrase:

Show up – you can make an impact on the life of the congregation - and it on you - only if you are there
Grow up – be open to challenge and change - grow in your faith
Throw up – your hands. To volunteer. To rejoice.

The Charge to the Minister was given by Rev Rob Gregson (former RHUC part-time interim minister), who charged his old friend: “Both to remember, and to forget”. To remember Unitarian history and glories and “the fact that we are here to embrace mystery and pain and delight”. And to forget - “The trick is to remember all that you have been... and then to forget it and move on.”

“You are here now. These are your people. This will become your new home.”

And after a rousing chorus of Parry’s Jerusalem, Patrick emotionally acknowledged the privilege (as he sees it) to call the congregation “my people”, and gave a touching benediction before walking down the aisle hand in hand with Patricia.

Claire Julian – Search Committee Secretary
There will be more coverage of the Induction in the March issue of Open Mind.

News from the Management Committee

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Committee meetings as an observer. If you would like to attend, as a courtesy please contact either John Lawrence or Tanya Morrison (co-Chairs) in advance. The next meeting will be on Thursday 9 February 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Chapel (in the Committee Room).

Minister's Report: The Induction of Rev Patrick O'Neill as settled minister of Rosslyn Hill Chapel on 7 January was fresh in MC members' minds at this meeting. It had been, as Patrick said in his Minister's report, a 'wonderful event'. Unitarian clergy and representatives of many local congregations, and Ann Peart, the President of the General Assembly, had attended in the Chapel, full of flowers and fine music. In the report, Patrick expressed his thanks to all the groups and individuals who had contributed to the occasion, with a special word for the Search Committee and 'all they've done to help launch my ministry in good style'. He added that he thought it was safe to say his ministry was now 'officially launched'.

Rev O'Neill reported that through the Induction and his attendance at a meeting of the ecumenical group 'Churches together in Hampstead' he was making contact with the interfaith clergy in the area.

The Christmas services had been very well attended by 130 adults and many children at 5.00pm, around 100 at 8.00pm, and around 55 on Christmas Day. Rev O'Neill has attended meetings and been in touch with some members for individual counselling.

'Shaping our Religious Education Programme for Children': Rev Emily Leite, a visiting UU minister of Religious Education, was to lead a meeting on 29 January for parents and anyone interested in helping develop the Chapel's programme.

Treasurer's Report and Hall Fund raising: Stuart Bowman, Treasurer, reported that the cost of re-roofing the Hall and allied work had been covered satisfactorily. This major project had been financed by drawing down on our reserves. There was wider discussion on the Chapel's finances. It was noted that the Chapel runs on a small budget dependent on rental income, with limited income from the membership. Rosslyn Hill is the largest UK Unitarian chapel; the GA and LDPA also have limited finances meaning that there is not the central support that other denominations can access.

Property Sale Group: It had been hoped a final agreement had been reached but a further development in relation to the properties bordering the Willoughby Road site had arisen. The MC agreed the terms on which the Chapel was prepared to proceed. Paul ver Bruggen was thanked for the Property Sale Group's tireless work for the Chapel in this matter.

Administrator's Report: Sharron Conduit, the Administrator, reported that the scaffolding, including the structure which linked the car park with the Hall and covered half the Manse lawn, has been removed. Repairs were necessary to the Manse chimney, and leaking lead piping in the Hall. Storms earlier in the month had ripped a tile off the Chapel.

The suggested rearrangement of the memorial stones on the south side of the Chapel to make way for additional ones would be discussed at the AGM.

The Administrator had been asked to confirm the capacity of the Chapel and the Hall. She now had guidelines from Camden Council, and would confirm the figures at the next meeting.

Elders' Report: The Elders reported that they were meeting with Rev O'Neill shortly when they planned to discuss with him how the Elders can continue to support his ministry and develop their role.

Will Hopper reported that he and Victoria and William Ellington had met (as Chapel members, not as Elders) with John Lawrence (co-Chair) to discuss issues relating to the reduction in the Chapel's reserves following the work on the Hall roof. There were no substantive concerns remaining after the meeting.

AGM: The AGM is to be held on Sunday, 26 February, after the morning service.

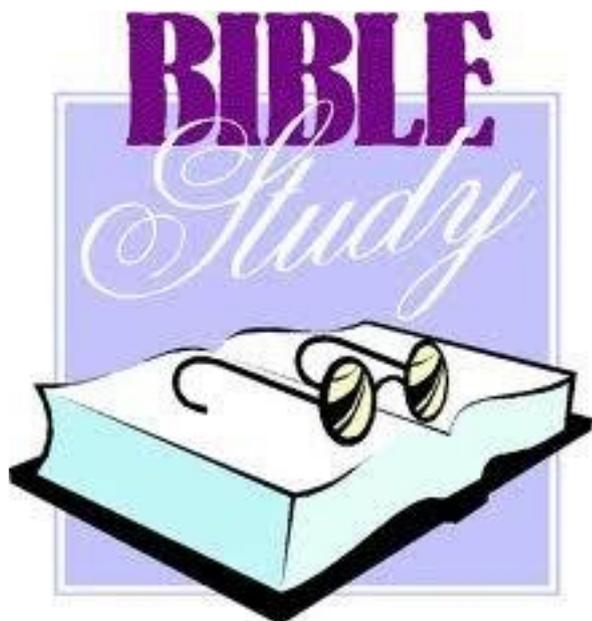
More than 50% of the Management Committee were standing down or had resigned because of relocation. The co-Chairs had written to members and the letter was published in the January issue of 'Open Mind', explaining, for newcomers and those at present not closely involved, the vital management responsibilities of the Committee and the fact that the support of the members was essential to the existence of the Chapel. (Copies available from the Administrator)

John Lawrence and Tanya Morrison (co-Chairs) and the Minister would be pleased to talk to any member of the congregation interested in serving on the Management Committee.



Our Larger Unitarian Movement

Fresh Approaches to the Bible



WHERE? Golders Green Unitarians, 31 1/2 Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS.

WHEN? Monday 20 February, at 7.30pm. This is a new monthly Bible-reading class, organised by London District Liberal Christian Affinity Group, and led by its co-convenor, Jim Corrigan. It will start with Luke's Gospel, and there will be time for reflective discussion. Will continue on the third Monday of each month, so future dates are Mon 19 March, Mon 16 April, and so on. Contact: Jim Corrigan, Tel: 020 8361 1843



Unitarian Youth Programme - Inter Weekend
16-18 March 2012
Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire.
Contact: John Harley Tel: 079 8590 0935

Unitarian Youth Programme - Junior Weekend

2-4 March 2012
Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow,
Derbyshire.
Contact: John Harley 079 8590 0935



February Diary

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Wednesday 1 February

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 5 February

11.00am – Morning service – “What is the Meaning of This?”* - Led by Gordon Jackson

7.30pm – Evening service - “What is the Meaning of This?”* - Led by Gordon Jackson

Monday 6 February

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Wednesday 8 February

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 9 February

7.30pm – Management Committee meets*

Sunday 12 February

11.00am – Morning service – “In Search of Tolerance”* - Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – “In Search of Tolerance”* - Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 13 February

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Tuesday 14 February

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meet*

Wednesday 15 February

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 16 January

7.30pm – Chapel Book Club*

Sunday 19 February

11.00am - Morning service – Service to be announced. Led by Guest Speaker

7.00pm – Evening service – Service to be announced. Led by Guest Speaker

Monday 20 February

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Poetry group meets in the Chapel*

Wednesday 22 February

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

Sunday 26 February

11.00am – Morning service – “The Golden Rule”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

12.30am – Annual General Meeting

7.00pm – Evening service – “The Golden Rule”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 27 February

5.30pm Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Wednesday 29 February

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel



On Friday 6 January a team of dedicated helpers took down and packed away the Christmas decorations, created fresh flower arrangements, and cleaned, polished and re-furnished the woodwork in the Chapel to prepare for Rev Patrick's induction service the next day.

It was multi-tasking on a grand scale and was much appreciated.

Grateful thanks to: Helene, Janna, Charlotte, Jenny, Emily, Maggie, Deborah, George, Ken, Harriet and Sharon (who helped take the baubles off the tree two days earlier).

The Chapel is indebted to the Academy School for the magnificent Christmas tree and other decorations, for which we thank them very much.

--Ann Finer



Events in the Chapel

Saturday 18 February (7.30pm) - A Variety Evening featuring famous artists & special guests, in aid of The Leukaemia & Lymphoma Unit at UCLH & the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund. Tickets £10 from David Power 020 7240 4421 or on the door.

Saturday 25 February (7.30pm) – Illumination – a programme of a cappella music from the 16th and 20th centuries. Tickets £10 at the door.



If you are on Facebook, please 'like' our page and stay up to date with Chapel events, post comments or let others know of any activities you are involved with by adding them to the page, www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel. Thanks!